

# **NOTICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING for ROCKFORD URBAN AND METROPOLITAN AREA**

Notice is hereby given that the **Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP)**, the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process and the development of the following documents. RMAP coordinates publicly funded transportation planning and improvements among the various jurisdictions in Winnebago and Boone Counties.

## **1. RMAP COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) FISCAL YEAR 2009 AMENDMENT:**

The HSTP is a locally developed plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with low incomes. The purpose of the Human Services Transportation Plan is to assess the needs and concerns of public transit users in the Metropolitan Planning Area and to develop strategies that will address and remedy these concerns. The overall goal of the plan is to increase the efficiency of services provided to public transit dependent populations (individuals with disabilities, persons with low income and elderly individuals). The Human Services Transportation Plan is also a prerequisite, as stipulated by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), to receiving any Federal Transit Administration funding under the 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute) and 5317 (New Freedom) programs. The HSTP contains the following elements:

- a) An inventory of available transportation services
- b) An assessment that lists transportation needs and gaps within the RMAP Metropolitan Planning Area
- c) Strategies that address the identified transportation needs and gaps

This amendment to the HSTP provides updates to the plan which include any new identified transportation needs in the Metropolitan Planning Area since the adoption of the HSTP in January 2008. The current HSTP and HSTP amendment are available on the RMAP website or by contacting RMAP staff.

**2. RMAP FY-2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** This document will identify and prioritize all major transportation and public transit improvements scheduled for implementation in the RMAP Metropolitan Area in the next four years (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012). The document is now under development and a draft will be available for comment at the end of November 2008. The target adoption is on or about January 29, 2009. Public comments will be accepted anytime, but should be submitted prior to January 22, 2009.

**3. RMAP FY-2010 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** RMAP will afford the opportunity for public comment to gather initial considerations for the next year's (Fiscal Year 2010) work program. This document specifies the transportation planning work proposed over the next year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). The current FY 2009 UWP is available on the RMAP webpage or by contacting RMAP staff.

**4. RMAP 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP):** The LRTP discusses plans and assigns priority for all major transportation systems improvements for the Metropolitan Area over the next 20 to 30 years. On July 28, 2005 the RMAP Policy Committee adopted the LRTP. Since the past three years, local communities and counties have continued the overall land-use and transportation planning process. The plan has a federal requirement of being updated every five years. To comply with this requirement, RMAP will begin the process of updating this plan in January of 2009. Public participation in the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan is encouraged at this time and throughout the next 18 months. The current Year 2035 LRTP is available on the RMAP webpage or by contacting RMAP staff. For a tentative timetable of the next update of the LRTP, please refer to the RMAP Public Participation Plan (PPP). The tentative adoption date of the update to the LRTP is June 24, 2010.

The above RMAP documents can be viewed at <http://rockfordil.gov/government/works/index.cfm?section=planning&id=977> or you can receive copies by contacting RMAP Staff. Staff contact information is provided below. The objective of this public comment period will be to seek comments and to engage the public in regards to the aforementioned RMAP documents.

Therefore, public comment will be afforded for the RMAP HSTP and TIP documents **from November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**. Comments can be submitted by (a) electronic format at the RMAP website (b) mailing in your comments to RMAP staff at the address provided below (c) faxing in your comments (d) contacting RMAP staff by telephone (e) or by meeting with RMAP staff.

Public comments are welcomed on the above documents and other planning documents of RMAP, at all RMAP meetings or by contacting RMAP by telephoning, e-mailing or writing. Comments can be made at the RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting, which will take place on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 10:00am at the YWCA of Rockford (4990 E. State Street, Rockford, IL 61108). Comments can also be made at the RMAP Technical Committee meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 which will be held at 10:00am at Loves Park City Hall (100 Heart Blvd. Loves Park, IL 61111). The RMAP HSTP and TIP documents are to be tentatively adopted by the RMAP Policy Committee at their meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

A **Call for Projects** regarding HSTP projects is also issued by RMAP for (5316) Job Access and Reverse Commute funds as well as for (5317) New Freedom Funds. The call for projects, as well as scoring criteria, are available on the RMAP website as listed above or through contacting RMAP staff.

Projects for these funding sources must be developed from and address identified transit gaps and needs as cited in the RMAP Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). The plan and draft amendment are available on the RMAP website at <http://rockfordil.gov/government/works/index.cfm?section=planning&id=977> or you can receive a copy by contacting RMAP staff.

The following is a brief description of what each funding source supports:

The goal of the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program is to improve access to transportation services to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals and to transport residents of urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas to suburban locations. The program requires coordination of Federally assisted programs and services in order to make the most efficient use of Federal resources.

The New Freedom formula grant program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. The New Freedom formula grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and to expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the ADA of 1990.

For more information including eligible activities, etc for JARC and New Freedom programs, please refer to FTA Circulars: **FTA C 9050.1 (JARC)** and **FTA C 9035.1 (New Freedom)**. These circulars can be obtained through the FTA webpage [http://www.fta.dot.gov/laws/leg\\_reg\\_circulars\\_guidance.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/laws/leg_reg_circulars_guidance.html) or by contacting the FTA at (202) 366-4043 or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).

Applicants seeking consideration for these funds are required to submit a proposal, which details the following:

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Name of the Agency Applying
- Name of the Project
- Overview of the project which includes the coverage area as well as the type of service to be provided

#### **PROJECT RELATIONSHIP TO IDENTIFIED TRANSIT NEEDS AND GAPS LISTED WITHIN THE RMAP HSTP**

- Specify which identified need or gap is to be addressed by the proposed project
- List what target populations will benefit from this project (i.e. elderly individuals, individuals with disabilities, individuals with low income).
- Identify which funding source, either JARC or NEW Freedom, from which the proposed project will be derived from
- Identify how the target population will benefit from this proposed service

#### **ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

- Detail project phasing (i.e. intended duration of the project as well as implementation schedule)
- Detail the costs of the projects

\* *Projects that will apply for JARC funding must provide services to at least one of areas listed in the HSTP which are CherryVale Mall, the Machesney Park Industrial Centers, Boone County/City of Belvidere or East State Street in Rockford, IL.*

Selection criteria for potential projects can be obtained by visiting the RMAP website or by contacting RMAP staff: Contact information is listed below.

Proposed projects can be submitted by contacting RMAP staff through the U.S. mail, e-mailing or faxing project proposals. Also, applicants could present the proposed project (which includes the above mentioned proposal items in hard copy format) at the RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting, which will take place on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10:00am at the YWCA of Rockford (4990 E. State Street, Rockford, IL 61108). Comments can also be made at the RMAP Technical Committee meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 which will be held at 10:00 am at Loves Park City Hall (100 Heart Blvd. Loves Park, IL 61111).

*The RMAP HSTP amendment is to be tentatively adopted by the RMAP Policy Committee at their meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

Projects to be considered for JARC and New Freedom funding **must** be submitted to the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning **no later** than **5:00PM** on **January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**.

Jon Paul Dipla, Transportation Planner  
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
313 North Main, Rockford, IL 61103  
815/987-5628 (voice); 815/967-7058 (fax)  
email: [jonpaul.dipla@rockfordil.gov](mailto:jonpaul.dipla@rockfordil.gov)

Gary W. McIntyre, Transportation Planner  
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
313 North Main, Rockford, IL 61103  
815/987-5638 (voice); 815/967-7058 (fax)  
email: [gary.mcintyre@rockfordil.gov](mailto:gary.mcintyre@rockfordil.gov)

Date of notice: November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008